

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

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DRAFTED BY: S/S:JPMOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 116387 TOSEC 010030

STADIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 3543 ACTION SECSTATE CAIRO INFO
KUWAIT 19 MAY

QUOTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 3543

STADIS

CAIRO FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI CONCERN AT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE'S STATEMENT;
VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF STATE 115497

1. BBC HAS CARRIED REPORT THAT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
SCHLESINGER HAS SAID WE WOULD USE "POLITICAL, ECONOMIC
AND EVEN MILITARY" MEANS TO BREAK ANOTHER OIL BOYCOTT.

2. SAUDIS ARE CONCERNED AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ASKED
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US FOR TEXT OF THE STATEMENT. THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR

ASKED TO SEE ME IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER. THE KUWAITI SAID, AND I PRESUME HE WAS REFLECTING THE VIEWS HE HAD JUST HEARD, THAT WE WOULD BE VERY MISTAKEN IF WE THOUGHT THIS REVIVAL OF THE INVASION THREATS WOULD HELP OIL PRICES OR THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE AREA. THE KUWAITI SAID THE TIMING WAS THE WORST POSSIBLE AND ASKED IF WE WERE DETERMINED TO LOSE ALL OUR MIDDLE EAST INTERESTS OR IF SCHLESINGER WERE DELIBERATELY SABOTAGING THE PEACE EFFORTS. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT HE WAS OVER-REACTING; SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD SAID NOTHING NEW.

3. WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW IF IT IS CAUSE-AND-EFFECT BUT THE VISIT OF SECRETARY ROBINSON WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD WHICH HAD BEEN CLEARED WITH ROYAL PROTOCOL AND FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WAS WAITING ONLY THE FIXING OF EXACT TIME IS NOW UP IN THE AIR AGAIN. CHIEF OF ROYAL PROTOCOL TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER IN RIYADH THAT NO RPT NO APPOINTMENT WOULD BE SET; WE SHOULD CALL AFTER ROBINSON ARRIVES AND PROTOCOL WILL "SEE WHAT PRINCE'S SCHEDULE FOR DAY LOOKS LIKE."

4. WE ARE CALLING TO FAHD'S ATTENTION SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE MEETING (REFTEL) AND BELIEVE THAT ONCE UNDER SECRETARY IS HERE, THINGS CAN BE WORKED OUT. IN ANY CASE, UNDER SECRETARY SHOULD COME AS SCHEDULED. MEETING WITH ABA AL-KHAYL IS NOW SET FOR 0900 MAY 21.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE SEND US TEXT OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS ON OUR RESPONSE TO NEW OIL BOYCOTT.
AKINS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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